

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

*United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt*

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - February 11, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Lee Willis Bender was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by United States District Judge John A. Houston based on his conviction for federal firearms violations. Judge Houston sentenced Bender to serve 36 months in custody and a three-year term of supervised release.

According to court records, Lee Willis Bender was previously convicted of robbery, possession of a controlled substance, and petty theft with a prior conviction. In connection with his guilty plea on October 9, 2007, Bender admitted to being a felon in possession of a firearm and to illegally possessing a Taurus International .38 caliber pistol.

The cases stem from an investigation conducted in 2007 by the San Diego Violent Crimes Task Force - Gang Group. The San Diego Violent Crimes Task Force - Gang Group is a multi-agency law enforcement group consisting of agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and officers from the San Diego Police Department and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, as well as other state and federal law

enforcement agencies. Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives were also involved in this investigation.

DEFENDANT

Lee Willis Bender

Case Number:

07cr0201-JAH

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1) - Felon in Possession of a Firearm

AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
San Diego Police Department
San Diego County Sheriff's Department